

**First Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

New York, 1-2 June 2015

Venue: UNHQ, Conference Room 3

**Report**

**I. Introduction**

1. The first meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) took place on 1-2 June 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The IAEG-SDGs was established by the Statistical Commission at its 46<sup>th</sup> session to develop an indicator framework for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, and to support its implementation.

2. According to its Terms of reference (see Annex 1), the IAEG-SDGs consists of 28 representatives of national statistical offices and include, as observers, representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies, including those responsible for global reporting on the MDGs, to provide important technical advice and support as needed. The group will invite experts, as appropriate, from civil society, academia and the private sector to contribute their expertise and experiences on indicators and innovative data compilation methods.

3. The main objectives of the first meeting of the IAEG-SDGs were to discuss i) the methods of work of the group, ii) the process for the selection of indicators, iii) critical issues such as interlinkages across targets and data disaggregation, and iv) the work plan and the way forward.

4. Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Wu Hongbo, opened the meeting. The meeting was attended by 28 participants from 22 IAEG-SDGs member countries, as well as over 120 participants from observer countries, specialized agencies, funds, programmes, the UN Secretariat and Regional Commissions, and regional and international organizations. More than 80 representatives from accredited civil society organizations also took part in the meeting.

5. The meeting elected two co-chairs, Ms. Fabiola Riccardini of the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat) and Ms. Lisa Grace S. Bersales of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), both for an initial term of one year, and adopted its agenda (available in Annex 2). Different than indicated in the agenda, the meeting on the second day took place from 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. in the morning and from 1:00 pm – 5:30 p.m. in the afternoon due to a short-term change in room availability.
6. All documents of the meeting including all presentations and statements are available on the SDG indicator website of the Statistics Division (<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>) and should be consulted for more detailed information.

## II. Conclusions

7. The IAEG-SDGs:
1. Recalled the guidance provided by Member States at the March meeting of the inter-governmental negotiations that indicators must directly respond to the goals and targets agreed in the Open Working Group and their level of ambition; must not undermine or re-interpret the targets; must cover all targets, including targets on means of implementation and give equal weight to all targets; must maintain the balance achieved, and should not introduce any new or contentious issues; furthermore, there also appeared to be broad agreement among Member States that the number of global indicators should be limited and should include multi-purpose indicators that address several targets at the same time.
  2. Recalled the results of the Expert Group Meeting on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda, New York, 25-26 February 2015 in respect to the design of the indicator framework and the criteria for indicator selection, and agreed to take those criteria into account and to follow a framework approach in its work; recognized that, while the number of global indicators must be limited, some targets might require multiple indicators to measure its different aspects; recognized the need to systematically address the issue of disaggregation, and to leave no one behind.
  3. Recalled that the IAEG-SDGs, according to its Terms of Reference, will develop a proposal for an indicator framework and a list of indicators for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level; its proposal will be considered for adoption by the Statistical Commission at its 47<sup>th</sup> session in March 2016 and later presented to the designated political inter-governmental process for its consideration.
  4. Stressed that the role of the IAEG-SDGs members should include consultation and coordination within their own national statistical system, and should also include reaching out to the countries in their respective region and sub-regions; following the practice during this first meeting, the IAEG-SDGs will also consider contributions by observers; stressed the important contributions of the regional commissions and regional and international agencies,

in particular as entities responsible for the compilation of indicators at the global level and/or for the conceptual and methodological development in their specific areas of work based on their existing mandates and will invite them to contribute their expertise during its consultations; stressed the important contributions of Major Groups and other stakeholders in the indicator development process, and will ensure their further involvement through an appropriate channel of consultations.

5. Agreed that the invitation to all members of the IAEG-SDGs, the agenda, the meeting materials and any requests for interventions and presentations need to be provided sufficiently ahead of the meeting to allow the attendance of the technical experts of all members and sufficient time for the review of the materials and for the consultation within the national statistical system and other countries in the regions and sub-regions.
6. Agreed that the draft meeting conclusions will be sent to all members for their review.
7. Requested that the information on the activities of the IAEG-SDGs be available in a fully transparent manner to all Member States and recognized in this context the establishment of a website on SDG indicators (<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>); this website will contain all documents of the meeting, extensive metadata and all inputs and statements contributed during the meeting, and will be regularly updated.
8. In order to conduct its work efficiently and in a timely manner, agreed to establish two discussion streams to which all members of the IAEG-SDGs are invited and encouraged to participate and to provide their contributions: the first one focusing on conceptual frameworks and indicator concepts and definitions, and a second one focusing on identifying interlinkages among indicators across goals and targets; the discussions under the two work streams should be conducted in an integrated manner.
9. Agreed to invite members of the IAEG-SDGs to express their interest to lead as facilitators the work of the two discussion streams and noted the offers of the Philippines to facilitate the first and of Italy to facilitate the second discussion stream.
10. Appointed two co-chairs for the IAEG-SDGs, Lisa Grace S. Bersales of the Philippines and Ms. Fabiola Riccardini of Italy. Stressed that the two co-chairs of the IAEG-SDGs should act in a neutral and impartial way, and following the established practices of the Statistical Commission, refrain from stressing and promoting their own views and facilitate the discussion allowing for all members of the group to fully participate in the discussion.
11. Requested the Secretariat to provide by 23 June a full explanation of the contents and rationale of the two lists of indicators that were provided as inputs for the discussions, and to make available the list of proposals incorporating any additional inputs, comments or corrections received at the meeting; requested the Secretariat to clarify the criteria used for the prioritization of indicators and how the lists took in full consideration the assessment of preliminary and indicative indicators conducted in February/March 2015, to which 70

countries responded, and presented in a technical report by the UN Statistical Commission to the inter-governmental negotiations in March 2015.

12. Requested the Secretariat to provide as soon as possible a refined tentative timeline and work plan which will consider sufficient time for both discussion streams to conclude their work and, if feasible, provide a first compilation of possible indicators for a global indicator framework, allow a second round of consultation and provide an updated compilation of possible indicators four weeks ahead of the second meeting of the IAEG-SDGs. The work plan should also address the procedure and criteria for the indicator selection.
13. Agreed that the next meeting of the IAEG-SDGs should be a three-day meeting and would be tentatively scheduled for 26-28 October 2015.
14. Agreed that the proposal for a global indicator framework will need to be finalized by the end of November for a timely submission to the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Statistical Commission in March 2016.
15. Requested the Secretariat to set-up an electronic collaboration platform to facilitate the work of the IAEG-SDGs ensuring the opportunity of equal participation of all members.
16. Requested to seek funding or the establishment of a fund for the participation of members, in particular from developing countries, and for the translation of consultation documents and translation during the meetings of the group.

### **III. Methods of work of the group**

8. Agenda item 2 - Methods of work of the group - was introduced by the Secretariat. The meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat recalling the Terms of reference of the IAEG-SDGs as it concerns its methods of work. Within the parameters defined by its Terms of reference, the IAEG-SDGs will establish its working methods.

9. An important point of the discussion was that the IAEG-SDGs should work in a spirit of cooperation. The meeting took note that the meetings of the IAEG-SDGs are technical and therefore no translation is available; it also took note that some Member States could not be present with their technical experts due to their late nomination and consequent late arrival of the invitations; it also took note that observer countries inquired about the possibility of their participation in the group's consultations.

10. The main results of the discussion under this agenda item are reflected in the conclusions.

#### **IV. Indicator framework: global, regional, national, sub-national and thematic indicators**

11. Agenda item 3 - Indicator framework: global, regional, national, sub-national and thematic indicators - was introduced by the Secretariat. The meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat recalling the main points of consensus from the Expert Group Meeting on the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda, New York, 25-26 February 2015 regarding the design of the indicator framework.

12. In its introduction, the Secretariat emphasized that global indicators are important to inform the global political discussion. They provide a basis for the discussion of the development agenda and for informing communication and advocacy campaigns. They also ensure consistency and collaboration in data compilations, harmonization and rationalization of development indicators, and are important for policy-oriented statistics and for statistical capacity building. While there are links between global, national, sub-national and thematic indicators as it relates to conceptual issues and definitions, each set of indicators serves a specific purpose, with national and sub-national indicators needed for more localized policy interventions, and “thematic” indicators are important for more in depth analysis in specific policy areas. The meeting stressed that in this phase, the work of the IAEG-SDGs should focus on identifying the best possible indicators to measure progress on the sustainable goals and targets at the global level.

13. In its presentation on national and sub-national monitoring and its link to global monitoring, the Philippines reflected on its experience with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDG indicators could be grouped into three categories: i) same data source for all levels of monitoring, ii) same data source for national and sub-national but different for global monitoring, and iii) different data sources for all levels of monitoring. While the Planning Ministry provided progress reports on MDG monitoring, the Philippines Statistics Authority formulated concepts, definitions, programmes and policies on MDG indicators, and it also provided inputs to progress reports. Academia and research institutions provided technical advice on measurements, especially for the sub-national level. However, it was very difficult to generate all indicators for the MDGs. Engagement of the national statistical office (NSO) with various stakeholders has been vital and has shown the need for a culture shift in NSOs, including the need to be more outward looking.

14. In its presentation on regional monitoring and its link to global monitoring, Cameroon provided a presentation on behalf of the African group of countries. The African group has recognized the need to adopt a process approach. At national level, involvement of all parties, including government, international partners, civil society, and private sector is needed. To this end, the three main regional organizations leading the regional process and all 54 countries are

involved and have developed the Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 development agenda. The group has already organized three workshops to review indicator frameworks and will have more meetings in the coming months. The next steps are to take note of the negotiations process and the debate on SDG goals and targets and to elaborate on the indicators framework. The three main ideas shared by the group are: i) Ownership, all countries must take ownership of the indicator framework at the national level; ii) Need to build/elaborate the process and the need to create proxies if it is not possible to calculate the actual indicator; the SDGs must be aligned with the national development plans of the countries; iii) Need to establish the costing structure.<sup>1</sup>

15. In its presentation on thematic monitoring and its link to global monitoring, UNICEF explained that thematic monitoring with a clear focus on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene has been carried out since 1990. The approach is to measure progress in order to take action, while benchmarking at regional and country level and harmonizing monitoring and definitions. For the MDGs, UNICEF was tasked with designing indicators for the target on drinking water, but in terms of thematic monitoring, many more issues were monitored. All data were national data and came from household surveys and censuses. Such a thematic monitoring exercise led to the idea of “ladders of progress”. These ladders allow countries at different stages of development to show progress, even if they are not meeting the respective MDG target. This monitoring experience showed that it is important to understand the policy question in order to generate data. Key learned lessons were: good monitoring takes time; it is important to keep things simple and use national surveys; it is important to use a transparent method based on agreed rules and to make use of a strategic advisory group, expert task forces, and country missions; and it is important to ensure that the indicators are policy relevant.

16. During the open discussion, members of the IAEG-SDGs pointed out the need for both a statistical framework and a reporting framework. Agencies pointed out, among other things, the possibility of creating placeholders for certain indicators that still need methodological work. The main results of the discussion under this agenda item are reflected in the conclusions.

## **V. Process of selecting indicators**

17. Agenda item 4 - Process of selecting indicators - was introduced by the Secretariat. The meeting had before it a note by the Secretariat informing about a possible tier system of indicators, the guidance received at the intergovernmental negotiations in March 2015, the results of the Expert Group Meeting in February 2015 and criteria for indicator selection. In its

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<sup>1</sup> The African group has created a matrix of indicators for each SDG goal and target. The proposed indicators matrix, as well as the paper on ‘A Costed Strategy for Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa’ are available at the meeting website at: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/first-iaeg-sdgs-meeting/>.

introductory presentation, the Secretariat provided in addition an illustration of links between targets and an example of multi-purpose indicators.

18. The Economic Statistics Branch of the Statistics Division also provided a presentation on integrated statistical frameworks for SDG indicators, SEEA and the SNA. The presentation highlighted that basing the SDG indicators on standards such as the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) and the System of National Accounts (SNA) would be useful to ensure high quality indicators that are internationally comparable, and based on best practices and result from an integrated data system. It was argued that the use of a systems approach helps to ensure methodological consistency across all levels of monitoring, and it could potentially streamline the statistical system for global reporting and reduce national response burdens.

19. The Secretariat of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities explained in its presentation on indicators to address inequality and the needs of specific groups that seven targets specifically mention persons with disabilities. Yet, none of the indicators currently proposed under these targets reflect disability and it was suggested to develop disability indicators and to disaggregate data by disability. For an inclusive agenda, all universal targets and targets for vulnerable groups should be disaggregated for persons with disability.

20. The main results of the discussion under this agenda item are reflected in the conclusions.

## **VI. Discussion on indicators under specific goals to identify core issues for the work ahead**

21. In preparation of the first meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, the Secretariat compiled a list of indicator proposals and associated metadata ('List of proposals') based on the initial assessment of proposed provisional indicators included in the Technical report of the Bureau of the Statistical Commission presented to the March 2015 session of the intergovernmental negotiations.<sup>2</sup> The initial assessment of proposed provisional indicators in which 70 Member States participated is entirely reflected in this list of indicator proposals and associated metadata.<sup>3</sup>

22. When conducting their assessment of proposed provisional indicators in February and March 2015, many national statistical offices expressed their wish for detailed metadata and an improved description of proposed indicators. Therefore, the Secretariat requested agencies and

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<sup>2</sup> See Technical report by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the process of the development of an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda, available at [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/broaderprogress/pdf/technical%20report%20of%20the%20unsc%20bureau%20\(final\).pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/broaderprogress/pdf/technical%20report%20of%20the%20unsc%20bureau%20(final).pdf).

<sup>3</sup> The list of proposals was made available to meeting participants and also publicly shortly ahead of the meeting at <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/2015/05/29/first-proposed-priority-indicator-list/>.

entities to provide this additional information,<sup>4</sup> which was then combined with the initial assessment into the list of indicator proposals and associated metadata that was provided as input to this meeting.

23. Within the list of indicator proposals and associated metadata, one of the proposed indicators was identified as the suggested priority indicator based on the input from agencies and entities that were requested to identify their priority indicator for the targets in their area of work and expertise. In cases where multiple priority indicators were proposed under one target, precedence was in general given to the proposals by agencies with a mandate in the specific area and/or already responsible for global monitoring of the specific indicator.<sup>5</sup> The suggestion of one priority indicator under each target was meant to illustrate a possible framework consisting of a limited number of indicators, as requested by the intergovernmental negotiations on SDGs, and did not imply any judgment by the Secretariat on which indicators should eventually be selected.

24. In addition, for each suggested priority indicator the Secretariat evaluated its stage of development according to a three tier system based on the information provided by the relevant entities: a first tier for which an established methodology exists and data are already widely available; a second tier for which a methodology has been established but for which data are not easily available; and a third for which an internationally agreed methodology has not yet been developed. It should also be noted that the coverage and level of detail of the metadata provided by the relevant agencies was not the same for all indicators and that this initial evaluation may need to be revisited as more complete information becomes available. This initial evaluation indicated that for many of the indicators, significant efforts will be necessary in order to develop the statistical methodology and build the national statistical capacities.

25. Experts from Member States were requested to provide a brief introductory analysis of the indicators proposed under each goal in order to identify core issues for the work ahead. Botswana and India gave remarks on goals 1, 2 and 10; Mexico on goals 3, 4 and 5; Senegal and Tanzania on goals 6 and 7; Sweden and China on goals 8, 9 and 12; Fiji on goals 13, 14 and 15; and Colombia on goals 11, 16 and 17.

26. In their statements, the experts from Member States identified the following issues:

- Current data collection instruments such as, for example, household expenditure surveys to collect poverty data, do not lend themselves to certain forms of disaggregation;
- Many surveys are not conducted annually affecting the periodicity of the available data;
- Harmonization should be pursued so as to ensure data comparability;

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<sup>4</sup> All inputs from agencies and other entities on indicator proposals and metadata are available at <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/2015/06/16/detailed-inputs/>.

<sup>5</sup> The list of suggested priority indicators is contained in the list of proposals but was also made available as a separate document.



- The suggested priority indicators for targets under goals 1, 2 and 10 are viewed as generally relevant and measurable; however, the suggested indicator for target 1.4 was not considered the best option;
- The number of indicators (one per target) was viewed as still too large and interlinkages among goals 3, 4 and 5 should be exploited to identify multi-purpose indicators;
- The metadata have to be reviewed further to properly assess the proposed indicators;
- Data modelling will be an important aspect for the indicators under goal 3 and its methodology should be discussed;
- Regarding education, the group should move towards indicators that measure quality;
- The targets and suggested indicators should be mapped against existing statistical frameworks;
- For a number of indicators under goals 6 and 7, data availability is promising and data are even already collected for some where data come from household surveys, census and administrative sources. However, for other of the suggested priority indicators under goals 6 and 7 data seem difficult to collect, such as in the cases of indicators 6.3 (wastewater safely treated), 6.6 (wetland area) and 7.3 (value added to net domestic energy use);
- An indicator on foreign direct investment (FDI) in energy / hydropower can be useful for countries in Africa; also, time spent to fetch water could be an important indicator. The African Group suggested that water stress should be included as an indicator for target 6.4 in addition to water productivity;
- Definitions of terms such as ‘access to water’ and ‘access to energy’ still need further specification and amendment;
- While using SNA data to complement the productivity indicator is seen as useful, it was pointed out that the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) is not a mechanism for collecting data;
- The African Group has developed a strategy and a costing exercise for the harmonization of statistics in Africa, in order to respond adequately to the SDG monitoring;
- The economic indicators proposed under goals 8, 9 and 12 are viewed as generally available and high quality in many countries. However, the concern is how to link these indicators to environmental and social issues; the connection between material flows and the extent of environmental problems may not be clear; one possibility is to consider applying modelling techniques;
- As many indicators are compiled by various government ministries and agencies, sufficient time should be given to countries in the next consultation round on the list of indicators, so that high-quality feedback can be provided;

- The importance of the indicators under goals 13, 14 and 15 for the survival of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was highlighted; while the SDGs are a global agenda and they aspire to be universally applicable, individual goals affect countries in different ways and at different degrees, leading to different priorities;
- Given the data demands of the post-2015 agenda, statistical capacity building will be essential;
- The proposed indicators for goal 11 seem feasible and relevant. However for indicator 11.1, it is important to agree on the definition of slums and indicator 11.5 should be reviewed;
- Indicators proposed under goal 16 require discussion and strong efforts by countries, especially to use administrative records to produce data; the indicator for homicides should be reviewed; disaggregating data by migratory status does not seem feasible, presenting many problems of data harmonization;
- Most indicators proposed under goal 17 are relevant, but feasibility should be assessed; suggested indicators for target 17.5, 17.9, 17.10 and 17.12 should be reviewed and/or require further work.

27. During the discussion under this agenda item members of the IAEG-SDGs commented on the relationship between national, regional and global indicators, the need to ensure national ownership of the global indicator framework, the importance of statistical frameworks, the need to involve the entire statistical system in the discussions and the need to carefully review proposed indicators that are produced outside of the statistical system or for which no agreed methodology currently exists; it was pointed out that data from household surveys may often not be available on an annual basis; the importance of indicators on water stress (target 6.4) and air quality (target 11.6) was pointed out; the need for statistical capacity building was highlighted; several observer countries and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community on behalf of Fiji and Samoa submitted written statements that together with this report are part of the official meeting documentation.<sup>6</sup>

28. During the discussion under this agenda item, several agencies' representatives pointed out that having only one indicator per target for all targets would introduce a severe limitation given the multidimensional nature of some targets. They also stressed that the issue data disaggregation should be addressed in a comprehensive and crosscutting manner, that international agencies have an essential role in compiling data for global monitoring and that their prior experience in designing and implementing global monitoring frameworks should be utilized for the SDGs. Furthermore, it was indicated that there is a need for simple, measurable and multipurpose indicators. It was also stressed that the current indicator proposals do not

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<sup>6</sup> See Annex 3 for the list of statements and inputs which are available on the SDG indicator website at: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/2015/06/16/statements-first-iaeg-sdgs-meeting/>

sufficiently reflect the issue of refugees and displaced persons. Finally, the question was raised of whether the group should identify the indicator with the most readily available data or the one that best captures the essence of the target. The Secretariat was requested to provide further information on how the suggested priority indicators were identified and how indicators were rated according to their stage of development (see paras. 22-25). Some agencies provided specific inputs and corrections to the suggested priority indicators, which have been taken note of by the Secretariat and will be incorporated in the revised version. Several agencies and entities submitted supporting statements in writing that, together with this report, are part of the official meeting documentation.<sup>7</sup>

29. The following agencies/entities that did not get an opportunity to speak during the meeting submitted written statements: IMF, Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, and the UN-Energy and the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative. Some of the main points highlighted in these written statements are the following: the offering of technical expertise in certain areas for the development of indicators (IMF); proposals for monitoring specific targets (Global Alliance on Health and Pollution, UN-Energy and the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative); and concerns regarding the selection of specific indicators (Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth).

30. The main results of the discussion under this agenda item are reflected in the conclusions.

## **VII. Statements by Major Groups and other stakeholders**

31. Recognizing the importance of civil society, major groups and other stakeholders in the SDGs process, and following the recommendations of the inter-governmental negotiations, representatives of civil society were invited to contribute to the discussion. In their statements, representatives of civil society pointed out, among other things, that the indicator development process should be clear and inclusive and should use participatory approaches; furthermore, statistical capacity needs to be strengthened at the national level and the role of civil society should be considered to fill data gaps; the importance of multi-level monitoring and reporting, with active participation of all stakeholders, going beyond official statistics was also pointed out; furthermore, perception-based indicators are an important instrument to count all and leave no one behind. Civil society representatives also spoke to the importance of the indicator framework being based on a human right and gender-equality approach, as well as the importance of data disaggregation to generate multi-purpose data. The statements made by representatives of civil society are available on the meeting website and are part of the meeting documentation.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> See Annex 3 for the list of statements which are available on the SDG indicator website at: <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/2015/06/16/statements-first-iaeg-sdgs-meeting/>.

<sup>8</sup> See <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/first-iaeg-sdgs-meeting/>.

## **VIII. Way forward**

32. The results of the discussion under this agenda item are reflected in the conclusions.

## **IX. Conclusions and Closing**

33. The Director of the Statistics Division, acknowledging the richness of the discussions, and provided a first summary of the conclusions. The Co-Chair of the IAEG-SDGs closed the meeting.

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## **Annex 1 - Terms of reference for the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

1. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) will:
  - (a) Develop an indicator framework and a list of indicators for the monitoring of the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, taking into account existing efforts by different groups of countries and organizations, including regional and international agencies, regional commissions, academia, civil society and other relevant international organisations, to be adopted by the Statistical Commission at its 47th session in 2016;
  - (b) Provide technical support for the implementation of the approved indicator and monitoring framework over the 15-year period towards 2030; ensure the use of harmonized and agreed indicator definitions; share experiences on monitoring the sustainable development goals; and encourage good practices and innovations, including in the area of national capacity-building;
  - (c) Regularly review methodological developments and issues related to the indicators and their metadata;
  - (d) Report on progress towards the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda at the global level, based on global and regional aggregates, as mandated;
  - (e) Regularly review capacity-building activities in statistical areas relevant to sustainable development goal monitoring and make recommendations to be considered by the Statistical Commission, the High-level Group for post-2015 monitoring and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities;
  - (f) Review and support work by the Secretariat for the development of a sustainable development goal data-user forum, tools for data analysis and an open dashboard on the state of sustainable development goals.
2. The group will consist of 28 representatives of national statistical offices and include, as observers, representatives of regional commissions and regional and international agencies, including those responsible for global reporting on the MDGs, to provide important technical advice and support as needed. Members of the group will be nominated through existing regional mechanisms<sup>1</sup> for an initial period of two years (after which some are expected to be rotated as agreed by the respective regional mechanisms)

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical Commission for Africa, Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Conference of the Americas, Committee on Statistics, ESCAP and Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

with a view to ensure equitable regional representation and technical expertise and including members of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Non-member countries may send their representatives to participate in the activities of the group as observers.

3. The United Nations Statistics Division will be the secretariat of the group. Member States that are part of the IAEG-SDGs will elect two Co-Chairs. The existing global monitoring groups, generally composed of representatives of national statistical systems and experts from international agencies, working on specific indicators, will contribute to the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators as deemed appropriate by the IAEG-SDGs. In addition, as deemed appropriate, global monitoring groups will be formed bringing together national and international experts that will support the IAEG-SDGs on the selection and definition of indicators and data compilation and reporting to monitor progress in new and emerging areas covered by the new goals and targets.
4. The group will conduct its work in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, and will invite experts, as appropriate, from civil society, academia and the private sector to contribute their expertise and experiences on indicators and innovative data compilation methods.
5. The group will meet physically twice a year, and otherwise conduct its work electronically. Participation in the physical meetings is self-funded. A limited number of developing countries that are members of the group may receive funding, if available and according to practices followed in the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal indicators. In this connection, a trust fund is expected to be established to mobilize resources in support of the work of the IAEG-SDGs.
6. The group will report annually to the Statistical Commission and seek guidance from it. In its report the group will provide an annex listing the activities of various groups relevant for post-2015 monitoring.

## Annex 2 – Agenda

### Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Statistics Division

ESA/ST/AC.300/L1

1 June 2015

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### First Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

New York, 1-2 June 2015

Venue: UNHQ, Conference Room 3

## Agenda

### Monday, 1 June 2015

#### Morning session (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

1. Opening (10 minutes)
  - Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
2. Methods of work of the group (50 minutes)
  - Introduction by UNSD
  - Open discussion

Break (20 minutes)

3. Indicator framework: global, regional, national, sub-national and thematic indicators (50 minutes)
  - Introduction by UNSD
  - Presentations:
    - National and sub-national monitoring, and its link to global monitoring (*Philippines*)
    - Regional monitoring, and its link to global monitoring (*Cameroon*)
    - Thematic monitoring, and its link to global monitoring (*WHO/UNICEF*)
  - Open discussion
4. Process of selecting indicators (50 minutes)
  - Introduction by UNSD
  - Presentations:
    - Integrated statistical frameworks - Example SEEA (*UNSD*)
    - Critical issues (disaggregation, inequality etc.) (*SCRPD*)
  - Open discussion

**Afternoon session (2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)**

5. Discussion on indicators under specific goals to identify core issues for the work ahead
  - a) Goals 1, 2 and 10 (65 minutes)
    - Introductory remarks by countries and open discussion

Break (20 minutes)

- b) Goals 3, 4 and 5 (65 minutes)
    - Introductory remarks by countries and open discussion
  - c) Goals 6 and 7 (50 minutes)
    - Introductory remarks by countries and open discussion
6. Statements by Major Groups and other stakeholders (10 minutes)

**Tuesday, 2 June, 2015**

**Morning session (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)**

7. Continuation of the discussion on indicators under specific goals to identify core issues for the work ahead
  - a) Goals 8, 9, 12 (70 minutes)
    - Introductory remarks by countries and open discussion
  - b) Goals 13, 14 and 15 (70 minutes)
    - Introductory remarks by countries and open discussion

Break (20 minutes)

- c) Goals 11, 16 and 17 (20 minutes)
    - Introductory remarks by countries and open discussion

**Afternoon session (2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)**

7. Continuation of the discussion on indicators under specific goals to identify core issues for the work ahead
  - c) Goals 11, 16 and 17 (*Continued*) (70 minutes)
8. Statements by Major Groups and other stakeholders (6 minutes)

Break (20 minutes)

9. Way forward (60 minutes)
  - Introduction and open discussion
10. Conclusions
11. Closing



## **Annex 3 – Statements and related inputs submitted in writing**

### **Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

Statistics Division

ESA/ST/AC.300/6 (table of contents only)

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### **First Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators**

New York, 1-2 June 2015

Venue: UNHQ, Conference Room 3

#### **Statements and related inputs submitted in writing**

(available at <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/2015/06/16/statements-first-iaeg-sdgs-meeting/>)

#### **Inputs from National Statistical Offices – IAEG-SDGs members**

1. Samoa Bureau of Statistics and Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics – in preparation with support and advice from Secretariat of the Pacific Community – 9 June 2015

#### **Inputs from National Statistical Offices – IAEG-SDGs observers**

2. Statistics Denmark – 4 June 2015
3. Federal Statistical Office of Germany - G2, Environmental Economic Accounts, Sustainable Development Indicators – 10 June 2015

#### **Inputs IAEG observers, ordered by date of submission to the IAEG-SDGs Secretariat**

4. OHCHR on a human rights-based approach to data – 1 June 2015
5. ILO – 1 June 2015
6. ICAO – 1 June 2015
7. International Monetary Fund – 2 June 2015
8. UNDP - 2 June 2015
9. UN-Water on Goal 6 – 2 June 2015
10. Global Alliance on Health & Pollution – 2 June 2015
11. UNISDR – 2 June 2015
12. Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth – 3 June 2015
13. Co-Chairs of the Global Migration Group Technical Working Group on Data and Research (IOM, UN DESA), GMG Chair (World Bank), SRSG on International Migration – 4 June 2015
14. UN-Energy – 5 June 2015
15. UNFPA - 9 June 2015
16. Sustainable Energy for All initiative - NY office – 9 June 2015
17. UNODC – 12 June 2015
18. UNODC (second inputs) – 12 June 2015
19. UNODC and WHO – 12 June 2015
20. FAO – 19 June 2015

#### **Additional inputs from National Statistical Offices – IAEG-SDGs observers**

21. Director-General for Policy Planning (Statistical Standards) of Japan – 1 June 2015